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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/554,263	10/25/2005	Sukyoon Kim	2017-38	9015
52706 7590 .01/16/2007 IPLA P.A. 3580 WILSHIRE BLVD. 17TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90010			EXAMINER BOCHNA, DAVID	
			ART UNIT 3679	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	01/16/2007	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/554,263	KIM, SUKYOON
	Examiner	Art Unit
	David E. Bochna	3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: ____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

The abstract should be shortened and the phrase "The present invention discloses" should be removed from the abstract.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1-4 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1, line 6, the period after "body" should be removed.

Claim 1, line 15, it is unclear what is meant by the symbol set in quotations. All structural limitations should be recited using descriptive language and not symbols.

Claim 1, line 19, the phrase "the thereof" is grammatically incorrect.

Claim 2, line 3, it is unclear why the number 9 is in the claim.

Claim 3, line 21, it is unclear what is meant by the symbol set in quotations. All structural limitations should be recited using descriptive language and not symbols.

Claim 4, line 26, it is unclear what is meant by the symbol set in quotations. All structural limitations should be recited using descriptive language and not symbols.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gondek.

In regard to claim 1, Gondek discloses a pipe fixing system for inserting and fixing a pipe thereto, which forms a base part of a pipe structure, comprising:

a body 15 having a stopping part 23 formed on the lower portion of the inside thereof for stopping the pipe inserted into the body an extended portion 19 extended partially upwardly from the stopping part toward an upper end of the body for supporting the pipe and closely contacting the outer peripheral surface of the pipe, a tapered part 20 having an inner hollow portion and a diameter gradually narrowed toward the upper end of the body, and an inlet 16 formed in such a manner to be bent at an end of the tapered part in a form 21 for inserting the pipe;

fixing chips 31 mounted in the inner hollow portion of the tapered part of the body and formed in such a manner that the upper portion thereof is narrower and the lower portion thereof is wider to correspond to the shape of the tapered part, the fixing chip having at least one bolt hole 35 formed vertically therein; and

bolts 29 perforating the inlet side of the body and inserted into the bolt hole of the fixing chip, the fixing chips serving as wedge in such a manner that the fixing chips are interposed between the tapered part of the body and the pipe when the belts are tightened.

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In regard to claim 2, the body includes a fixing plate 46 mounted on the lower portion thereof and extending to the outside in such a manner ("to be fixed on concrete" is an intended use limitation) by means of bolts 27.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gondek in view of Miller. Gondek discloses a pipe joint as described above where rubber packings 39 are embedded below the tapered parts 20 of the body, where the pipe joint body 15 is capable of being attached to another component via end connector 11 or end connector B, but Gondek does not disclose the pipe joint body 15 being connected to another similar pipe joint body. Miller teaches that providing a pipe joint body 10.3 (fig. 6) with either end connector 64, or another similar pipe joint body (fig. 2) are well known equivalents in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the pipe joint body and end connector of Gondek to include a similar pipe joint body, as taught by Miller, because inasmuch as the references disclose these elements as art recognized equivalents, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the exercise art to substitute one for the other. In re Fout, 675 F.2d 297, 301, 213 USPQ 532, 536 (CCPA 1982).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Wartluft et al., Kishton, Volgstadt et al., Daspit and Davis all disclose similar couplings common in the art.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. Bochna whose telephone number is (571) 272-7078.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30 Monday-Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



David E. Bochna
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3679